

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-31 will be pending upon entry of the present amendment. Claims 1, 6, 10, 20, and 22-24 have been amended, and claims 30 and 31 are newly submitted herewith.

Claims 1, 6, and 10 have been amended to correct minor typographical and antecedent errors. These amendments are merely cosmetic in nature and are not made to overcome prior art.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claim 29 and of the subject matter of claims 9-11. Accordingly, claims 30 and 31 are herewith submitted. Claim 30 includes the limitations of claim 10 as well as limitations from claim 6. The limitations of claim 31 are substantially identical to those of claim 11.

Claims 24-27 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Accordingly, claim 24 has been amended to make the claimed subject matter more definite.

Claims 1, 5, 6-7, 12-14, 16, 18, and 20 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. (4,352,274, hereafter *Anderson*). Claims 3, 4, 15, 19, 21, and 23 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson, either alone or in view of Gianelo (6,589,308 hereafter *Gianelo*), Andersson et al. (5,398,159 hereafter *Andersson*), or Le et al. (5,038,308 hereafter *Le*).

Claim 1 recites, in part, “a personal computer ... [and] a gasket positioned in a space between an inner surface of the cabinet and an outer surface of the personal computer, configured to prevent passage of air through a space between the personal computer and the inner surface of the cabinet, between a first region and a second region.” Anderson fails to anticipate at least these limitations.

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner has pointed to the CPU, mother board, and other circuit boards of Anderson as being analogous to a personal computer. Applicant respectfully traverses this position. Applicant does not believe that one of ordinary skill would consider the components cited by the Examiner as equivalent to a personal computer. Even allowing Anderson’s card cage as an additional component to unify those listed, as suggested by the Examiner in the rejection of claim 6, these are merely components of a larger computer. Applicant notes, for example, that Anderson refers to the entire unit pictured in Figure 1, with the

exception of the console 405 and the printer 407, as a CPU (see column 3, lines 14-27). It is well known in the art that a personal computer typically includes one or more CPU's that each occupy only a small part of a circuit board in the form of integrated circuits (microchips), and, further, that a personal computer typically has a certain degree of portability that Anderson's device clearly does not have. Other features distinguishing the cited portions of Anderson from what is commonly known as a personal computer would be readily evident to one of ordinary skill in the art. If the Examiner relies on Official Notice or common knowledge to maintain the present rejection, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide adequate evidence to support the position that one of ordinary skill in the art would consider the components cited by the Examiner to be the equivalent of a personal computer (see MPEP §2144.03 A-C).

Even if, *arguendo*, Anderson's device did include a personal computer, it would still be inadequate to anticipate all the limitations of claim 1. As indicated above, claim 1 recites a gasket configured to prevent passage of air through a space between the personal computer and the inner surface of the cabinet. The Examiner has pointed to the insulating wall panel 561 as being analogous to the gasket of Figure 1. However, Anderson's mother board and circuit boards are contained within a card cage (shown in Figure 4) that in turn is positioned within the cabinet pictured in Figure 2. There is no indication that there is anything to prevent air from passing through the space between the cage and the cabinet. Certainly the wall panel cited by the Examiner is not intended to perform such a function, since insulating panels 561 and 562 are described as thermal insulating wall panels, without reference to any characteristic that would suggest a gasket or other such feature or capability. Since Anderson's card cage includes a large number of apertures in the bottom panel 419 for passage of air between each vertically aligned circuit board, and has no features to restrict air flow from the top of the card cage (see Figure 4 and column 3, lines 48-50), there is little to restrict air from flowing through the card cage, and so Anderson does not appear to be concerned with whatever air might pass outside the card cage. Thus, there is no teaching for the gasket recited in claim 1.

Anderson does not anticipate each of the limitations of claim 1, and therefore cannot serve as anticipating prior art under section 102. Accordingly, claim 1, together with dependent claims 3-5, is allowable over Anderson.

Claim 6 recites, in part, "an enclosure configured to substantially enclose the computer ... [and] means for preventing circulation of air within the enclosure and around an

exterior of a case of the personal computer between a first region of the enclosure and a second region of the enclosure.” While the scope of claim 6 differs from that of claim 1, the allowability of claim 6 will be evident in view of the arguments presented in support of the allowability of claim 1. In particular, Anderson fails to teach an enclosure configured to receive a personal computer, and further fails to provide the preventing means recited in claim 6. For at least these reasons, claim 6 is allowable over Anderson. Claims 7, 9-19, and 28, as dependent claims of an allowable base claim, are also allowable.

Amended claim 20 recites, in part, “a chassis of the personal computer, configured to receive computer components; [and] a ~~cover~~ case configured to be coupled to the chassis in a substantially airtight seal and enclose the components.” As previously argued, Anderson is not directed to a personal computer, and thus cannot anticipate the recited limitations of claim 20. Accordingly, claim 20 and dependent claims 21-23 are clearly allowable over Anderson.

Amended claim 24 recites, *inter alia*, “blowing the air from the cooling unit to a first region within the enclosure, while preventing the air from circulating to a second region within inside—the enclosure ~~but outside~~ without passing through the personal computer.” Anderson fails to anticipate the method of cooling a personal computer as recited in claim 24, as will be clear in view of the arguments previously presented in support of other claims. Thus, claim 24 is allowable, together with dependent claims 25-27.

Neither Nicolai nor Gianelo teach or suggest this element of claim 24. Neither reference contemplates any benefit to preventing movement of air within a cabinet but outside a computer positioned therein. Instead, Gianelo teaches the opposite, stating “In some constructions, the outlet ports are spaced from the inlet port to encourage an air travel path over the housed computer component to maximize the opportunity to absorb heat from within the cabinet and thereby serve as a heating means for the cabinet” (column 3, lines 13-17; also see column 4, lines 64-66). clearly, claim 24 is allowable over the cited art, together with dependent claims 25-27.

While the remaining rejections are moot in view of the allowability of the dependent claims, applicant believes that many of the dependent claims are allowable on their own merits, apart from their allowability as depending from allowable base claims. For example, claim 26 recites that “the drawing air into the cooling unit step comprises drawing air from

outside the enclosure, into the cooling unit.” Applicant notes that, according to claim 24, the air drawn into the cooling unit in this step is cooled and ultimately moved into the computer case. In contrast, Anderson’s is a closed-loop system, and the air that is used to cool the machine is exclusively recycled air. The air that Anderson draws into the system via the louvers 540 (column 4, line 30) is *warmed* by the condenser, then ejected via louvers 557 and 560 (column 4, lines 37-39). This air is not introduced into the cabinet to cool Anderson’s machine. Accordingly, the limitations of claim 26 are not taught or suggested by Anderson.

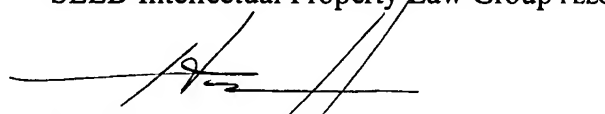
By the same token, because Anderson teaches recirculation of cooling air, there is no motivation to filter the air. The small amount of impurities present in air that is captured in the system would not justify the use of a filter, which would remove the impurities very quickly, but would extract a higher energy penalty paid over the life of the system, in constantly pushing the air through the filter. For this reason, there is no motivation to combine Gianelo with Anderson to reject claim 5. Clearly, claim 5 is also allowable over the art of record.

The applicant believes that all the claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicant’s undersigned representative at (206) 694-4848 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of this application.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC



Harold H. Bennett II  
Registration No. 52,404

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Enclosure:

Petition for Extension of Time

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6300  
Seattle, Washington 98104-7092  
Phone: (206) 622-4900 Fax: (206) 682-6031

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